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AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 2 and 4 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1 and 3 as follows.

1. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising particulate valdecoxib in an amount of about 5 mg to about 40 mg per dose and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, wherein a single oral administration of the composition, in an amount containing about 20 mg of valdecoxib, to a fasting subject provides a time course of blood serum concentration of valdecoxib having a time to reach a concentration of 20 ng/ml not greater than about 0.5 h after administration.

3. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said time course of blood serum concentration of valdecoxib has a time to reach maximum concentration (T_{max}) not greater than about 3 h after administration and a maximum concentration (C_{max}) not less than about 100 ng/ml.

REMARKS

By the present amendment, two (2) dependent claims are cancelled, two (2) claims are amended, and no claims are added. No fees for additional claims are believed payable.

Claims 2 and 4 are cancelled because their essential features are incorporated into Claim 1 as amended herein.

Claim 1 is amended in order to expedite prosecution by focusing the present application on a preferred embodiment of the invention. According to this embodiment:

(a) The "threshold concentration for therapeutic effect" as recited in Claim 1 as originally filed is now defined as 20 ng/ml (*i.e.*, incorporating the essential feature of original Claim 2, now cancelled). Support for this definition is found in the specification at least at page 3 line 7 and at page 4 line 20.

(b) The single oral administration providing the recited time course of blood serum concentration is now defined as "an amount containing about 20 mg of valdecoxib". Support for this definition is found in the specification at least at page 5 line 5 and in Examples 4 and 5 (page 24).